

GROUT READY TO BE ENJOINED

WITHDRAWS AS A CONTESTANT
IN LIGHTING SUIT.Getting Ready to Defend Suits, Which
Companies Have Not Brought,
Collect Bills—Companies Say Prices
Are Fair for New York Conditions.

It was rumor day in the "gas belt," which encircles all discussion of the city's lighting bills. Most exciting of all was the rumor that Commissioner Woodbury was not only making the city's own light at the Forty-third street crematory, but was selling surplus electrical energy to neighbors. If true, said the advocates of municipal ownership, why need the city hesitate about going the limit? A rush to the Mayor's office.

"I don't believe it's true," said Col. McClellan. "If it is, we surely must investigate the Commissioner and see how much he is charging for power." A rush to the Syndicate Building.

"Absolutely untrue," said Commissioner Woodbury.

Dusk brought a more horrifying tale—that Senator P. Henry McCarran of Brooklyn had instigated Grouse's statement of Sunday that he would fight the unpaid bills for lighting and investigate the lighting companies. It was said that Senator Pat thought it would be a fine play, preliminary to having Mr. Grouse named as the fusion candidate for Mayor next fall.

It was whispered huskily that Grouse, McCarran and Big Tim Sullivan were seen in conference on Monday night. Such of Senator McCarran's friends as heard the report that he instigated an investigation of the gas companies were inclined to laugh coarsely.

Mr. Grouse announced that he expects to begin at once the preparation of the defense in the suits threatened by the creditor companies. It is understood that the Commissioner's investigation of the cost of lighting will be secret and that the evidence will not be used unless the lighting companies sue the city.

Mr. Grouse's office force is announced to be too small to defend the suits which will be brought by the lighting companies. Mr. Grouse will be assisted by Robert Grier Monroe, Mr. Carr, Mr. Shearn and others. Mr. Shearn is attorney for the Hearst proceeding, which named Mr. Grouse as well as Mayor McClellan and City Chamberlain Keenan in the petition for an injunction.

When the briefs and affidavits in this action were presented to Justice Dickey in the Supreme Court, Brooklyn, yesterday the Commissioner formally withdrew as a contestant and turned in an amended petition stating that he had resigned his position since the hearing last Thursday and would not oppose the granting of an injunction to prevent him from paying New York's, and the other European cities the terms of contract are longer.

"We ought to ask for an injunction to prevent him from changing his mind again," said one of them.

The lighting companies are not idle. They are said to have already prepared a mass of information for the suits and the investigation. They will try to prove that the figures quoted for lighting other cities are not fair for comparison, insisting that in New York the cost of labor and of opening streets is greater and that many of the cities which have cheaper light are favored by the proximity of the power with which to generate electricity.

"Boston is the only American city where there is a fair comparison," said a representative of the lighting companies. "There the rates are the same, and less than half the wires are underground. The contracts there are for five years instead of one. In Paris electric lamps cost 1,000 francs a year each, and in London the price is \$30. These figures are as much as or more than New York's, and the European cities the terms of contract are longer."

TENDERLOIN STATION NO. 60.

Aldermen Get the Details They Demanded
but Won't Vote for It.

The Aldermen held up again yesterday the \$115,000 appropriation which has twice been passed by the Board of Estimate for the building of a new Tenderloin police station. Recently the Aldermen refused to approve the appropriation because the resolution from the Board of Estimate did not contain sufficient specific information as to the site of the proposed station. Yesterday the details were laid before the Board, but the Tammany Aldermen referred the matter to the Finance Committee. An appropriation of \$115,000 was voted for temporary pavilions at Bellevue Hospital for the relief of Bellevue and the other city hospitals.

Bridge Commissioner Best has advertised for bids for the hanging of the superstructure of Manhattan Bridge from wire cables. Alderman Mayersohn introduced a resolution that the Commissioner be requested to advertise for bids on both wire and eyeball cables. The Tammany Aldermen sent the resolution to the Committee on Bridges and Tunnels, where it will remain.

THREE UNSOLVED RIDDLES.

Health Board Advisers Want More Facts
Before Thinking.

At a meeting of the advisory board of the Board of Health yesterday afternoon three questions were presented for consideration. They were:

Whether swimming pools shall be established in the public baths as well as the showers.

As to the sale of compositions of oxygen for medicinal purposes.

No action was taken on any of the three questions, as the members of the board thought the information presented was insufficient. The meeting was adjourned until Dr. Darlington, the president of the Board of Health, returns from his vacation.

Dr. Darlington said last night that he would probably call a meeting of the board some day next week.

More Pay for Bridge Engineers.

Bridge Commissioner Best has increased the salaries of twenty-two of his engineers. Some of the engineers have had as much as \$1,500 a year added to their wages, while the aggregate of the increases amounts to over \$12,000 a year. A week ago Mr. Best dispensed with the services of Henry A. La Chioite, principal assistant engineer. Mr. Best said yesterday that he had found it imperative to pay better wages to the engineers of his department, because some of the most proficient of them were leaving the department to accept better offers.

No Holiday Pay for Per Diem Men.

At the last meeting of the Aldermen an ordinance was passed providing for the payment of laborers and other per diem employees for all public or designated holidays, days upon which they do not work. The Mayor has vetoed the measure, on the ground that it would be "giving any city's money without compensation." The essence of a contract for per diem employment, he says, "is that the employee should be paid for such time only as he actually works."

Col. Robinson Retired on Half Pay.

Col. Gilbert P. Robinson, the seventy-four-year-old clerk of the Jersey City Police Board, was retired on half pay at a meeting of the Commissioners yesterday afternoon. Deputy Controller Frank Van Winkle, a brother of Congressman-elect Marshall Van Winkle, was appointed to succeed him. Mr. Robinson was appointed Chief of Police of old Hudson City in 1896. He became a police captain of Jersey City when Hudson City, Bergen and Jersey City were consolidated in 1870. He was dismissed for political reasons in 1871 and got back in the service in 1880. He was then made clerk of the Police Board.

GREENE DIDN'T CALL ON LAWSON.

Wall Street Spends a Cheerful Afternoon
Over War Bulletins.

Wall Street was on tiptoe yesterday waiting for Col. W. C. Greene to pack a gun and start for Boston and do up Tom Lawson. There was a crowd around his office here. Reports from Boston said that crowds were surrounding Mr. Lawson's office and that "Lawson carries large pistols in his desk at all his offices," and again "it is not an uncommon thing for Lawson to receive visitors at his office with his hand on his shooting iron." This sent almost as sweet a thrill through the Street as another bulletin, stating that it was reported that Col. Greene had bought his ticket only one way.

Late at night Col. Greene came out of his office here and gave fifty-seven varieties of copper reporters a personal interview.

"I came down from my apartments in the Ansonia last night to my office thinking all the way of the \$1,500,000 which the breaks in Greene Copper stock had cost me in the last two days and of the effects which Mr. Lawson's tirades were having on the confidence and fortunes of people not in any way connected with the stock market. Our stock fell directly as a result of Lawson's letters, although it was not mentioned in them, for its drop was one of the after effects of the general destroying of confidence on his part for selfish reasons, simply to make money in the market for himself. So I determined to write the letter that I did, telling the plain facts in the case, knowing what had happened and what might happen if people didn't see what senseless stuff his letters were."

"I was here last night and until 5 o'clock this morning getting things straightened out and dictating that letter, which was written on my own responsibility and without the knowledge of any one excepting the stenographer. I don't intend to go to Boston tonight, but I do intend to go to Boston to see Mr. Lawson and to tell him what I said in my letter."

"I have met Mr. Lawson only twice, and those two occasions were some four years ago, when he came to my office and signed a contract within three hours for 65 per cent. of the Greene Copper stock. This was before his public offer. He treated me badly in that transaction, for he thought he was advancing money enough to get me in a hole so that he could get the property. Under the contract I had ninety days in which to repay these advances if he should decide he wanted them repaid. That was his option. But I heard nothing of it until thirty minutes before 12 o'clock on the last day of the ninety, when a man woke me up in my bed at the Waldorf and told me that Lawson wanted the money and I had half an hour to get it. I got it."

Col. Greene said that he hadn't sold out his interests, that he still held control with his friends owning some 100,000 shares out of the total of 804,000, although he had been compelled to sell some of the stock in the market himself owing to the pressure he brought 3,000 shares yesterday at 19 1/2, he said, and he expressed the opinion that much of the selling of Greene stock in the curb market was fictitious and done to break the market.

RICE TO BE TRANSIT ENGINEER.

Sixth Ave. Tunnel Likely to Be Built—The
New Hills in Prospect.

Albert B. Boardman and George L. Rives, counsel to the Rapid Transit Commission, who were directed to suggest amendments to the existing Rapid Transit act to be submitted to the Legislature, will make their report to the commission tomorrow. They will recommend the framing of a bill providing for the elimination of the subway from the Rapid Transit act so that contractors in building extensions to the subway shall deposit with the company as security for the proper fulfillment of their contract not less than 10 per cent. of their bid. At present a contractor must deposit \$100,000. It is also proposed to eliminate the mandatory clause which prevents the city from entering into an operating contract for less than thirty-five years, leaving to the Commissioners unhampered power over the term of a contract.

A separate bill will be introduced providing for the building of pipe galleries in new subways. The reason for making this a separate bill is the anticipated opposition of the gas and electric companies, which now control the wire conduits of the city. The Rapid Transit Commission's committee on contracts held a long meeting yesterday afternoon. The committee discussed the resignation of Chief Engineer Parsons and the application of the New York & Jersey Tunnel Company to build an extension from the Christopher street terminal of its North River tunnel under Sixth avenue to Thirty-third street. To meet Mr. Grouse's objection that such a tunnel would obstruct the building of a municipal subway under Sixth avenue, the company has offered to bore a tunnel forty feet beneath the surface, and the merchants of the shopping district have been so insistent in their demand for the tunnel that Mr. Grouse has decided to withdraw his objection.

Yesterday's meeting was secret, but it is understood that the committee decided to report in favor of the Sixth avenue tunnel, recommending that the company, as a consideration for the Sixth avenue franchise build an extension across town from Christopher street to Eighth street and Fourth avenue. The company has already said that it is willing to construct both routes.

The committee will recommend that the request of Chief Engineer Parsons to be allowed to resign at the end of the year be granted and will advise the appointment in his place of Deputy Chief Engineer George S. Rice. Mr. Parsons will be retained as consulting engineer.

CAUCUS IN TRENTON.

Bumfield to Be Leader of the Republican
Majority in the House.

TRENTON, N. J., Dec. 13.—The Republican members of the House of Assembly held an open caucus at the State House today and agreed upon the organization of the next House with almost complete unanimity. Edward D. Duffield of Essex was chosen as leader of the majority and he presided at the caucus. Boyd Avis of Gloucester, the Speaker of last year, was selected to be Speaker again. Other officers agreed upon were:

For clerk, Capt. James Parker, Passaic; for assistant clerk, Upton S. Jeffreys of Camden; for Journal clerk, Robert C. Dyer of Trenton; for Sergeant-at-Arms, George B. Lutz of Atlantic; for assistant sergeant-at-Arms, William J. Dye of Middlesex; for supervisor of bills, George B. Totten of Morris; for assistant bill clerk, Frederick W. Bender of Union.

The appointment of such minor officers as doorkeepers and pages was left to a steering committee, whose report was ratified subsequently by the caucus.

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Under Price

for Holiday

Gifts.

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New Light Oak Tan.

1.50 Walking Gloves at .98.

2.50 Silk Lined Reindeer at 1.49.

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EXCISE BOODLE FUND INQUIRY

JEROME DIGGING FOR HISTORY
OF ALLEGED \$30,000.Which Is Said to Have Disappeared at
Albany Without Producing Expected
Results in the Way of Legislation
—The Liquor Dealers Examined First.

District Attorney Jerome has begun an investigation of the story that was brought to him that a large fund was raised during the last session of the Legislature by the Liquor Dealers' Association to influence excise legislation. The story was that \$50,000 was raised and that a prominent Republican politician handled the money. No information was forthcoming from Mr. Jerome about his investigation.

He refused to say anything about the amount of the fund, or how it was handled. It was said, however, that the report that the money had been handled by a prominent Republican politician was wrong.

Mr. Jerome began his investigation two days ago. Now he has begun John Doe proceedings. Two men who have been examined in these proceedings are Fritz Lindinger, the former State president of the Liquor Dealers' Association, and Michael Farley, the president of the local liquor dealers' organization. They were both brought before Justice McKean, in Special Sessions, and sworn by him. Mr. Lindinger and Mr. Farley have made long statements to Mr. Jerome in an examination which Mr. Jerome conducted personally.

Other who have been subpoenaed in the investigation are Martin Kane, president of the State Organization of Liquor Dealers, and Louis Strewer and Patrick Kane, treasurer and financial secretary, respectively, of the local liquor dealers' organization.

Mr. Lindinger and Mr. Strewer both refused yesterday to discuss in any way what they had told Mr. Jerome. Mr. Lindinger had a session with Mr. Jerome and another yesterday. At the same time District Attorney Jerome had before the Legislature a bill providing for the opening of saloons certain hours on Sunday. What the liquor dealers wanted, it was said, was a reduction of the liquor license fee and certain restaurant privileges. The legislation they were seeking was to affect this city only; but whether or not the money was spent, the liquor dealers did not succeed in accomplishing what they expected, and the story is that they did not get their money back.

In the investigation he is conducting, Mr. Jerome has practically unlimited power. There is a law that where the bribery of legislators are concerned, those subpoenaed in the investigation cannot refuse to answer, even on the ground that it would tend to incriminate or degrade them. Therefore, Mr. Jerome is confident that he will get at the bottom of the story that has been told to him.

BLAZE IN A GIRLS' SCHOOL.

Pupils Sat Composedly in Annex While
Firemen Did Quick Turn.

There was a fire in a closet on the top floor at 2042 Fifth avenue, a four-story brick dwelling house, occupied by Mrs. Helen M. Scoville's school for girls. The house is owned by Lucien Warner.

The girls were in an annex in the rear of the building attending a lecture on music by Albert Mildeberg when Mrs. Scoville by a fire in the building. The girls were told to keep their seats and not to get excited. The firemen put out the blaze before it had a chance to spread.

Bumped by Hugh J. Grant's Auto.

William Watson, automobile driver for
ex-Mayor Hugh J. Grant, ran his machine
against a crosswalk car at Fifty-ninth
and Fifth avenue yesterday morning.

The dashboard of the car was caved in and the auto was damaged to the extent of \$1,000. Watson was pitched into a snowbank, but dug himself out unhurt. The car pulled out under its own power.

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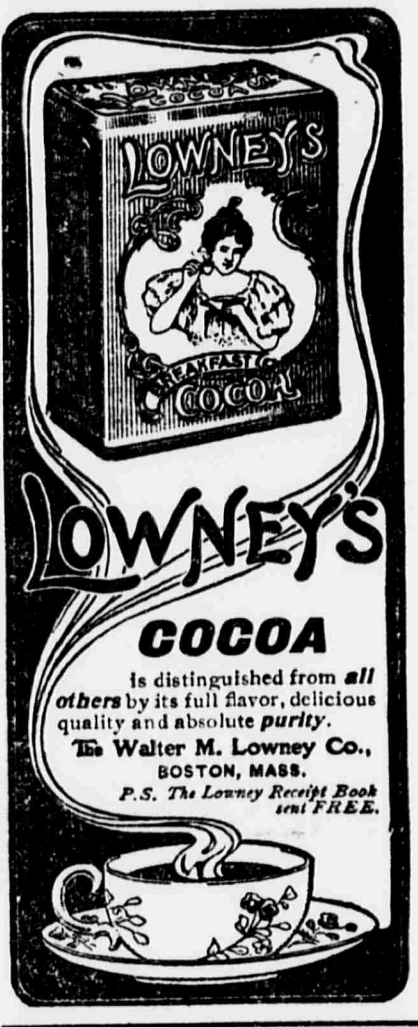
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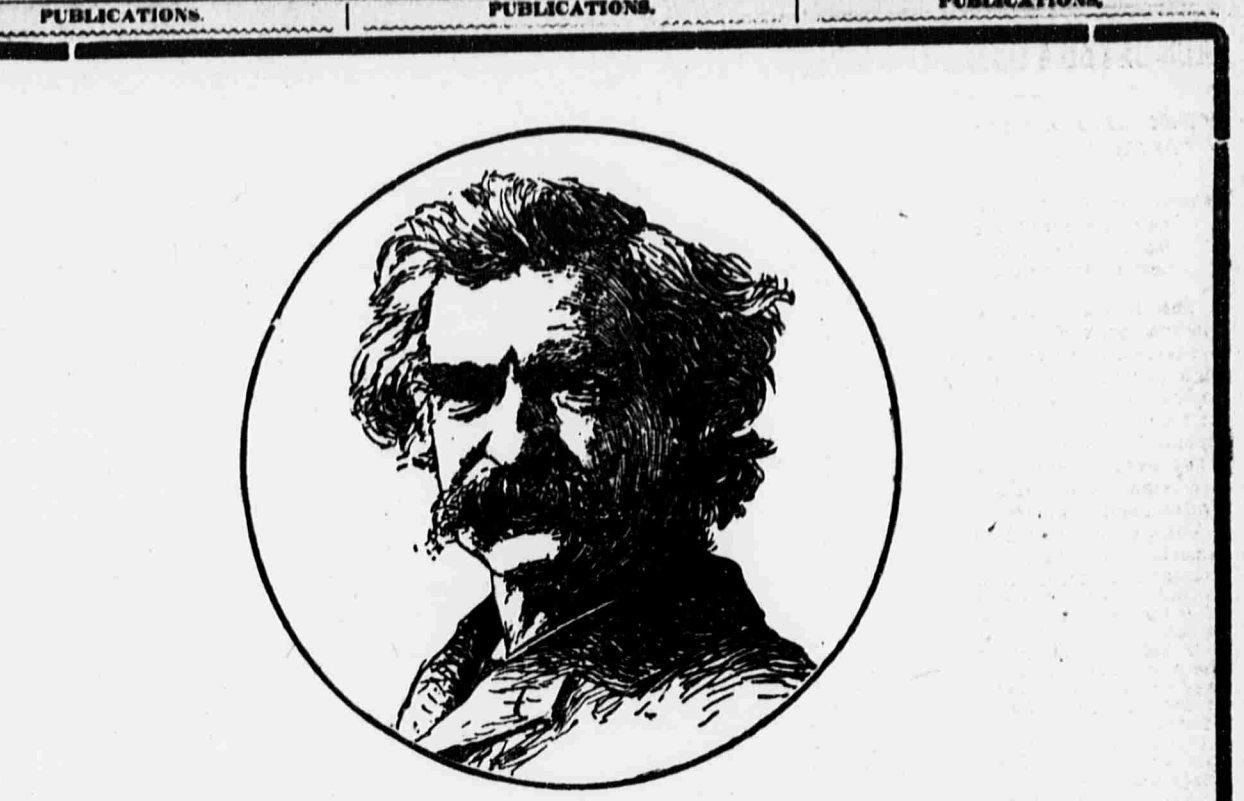
Watchman Asphyxiated in Toot House and
Then Burned to Death.

A man about 60 years old, who was employed as a watchman on a six-story apartment house in course of construction at 610 and 612 West 113th street, was burned to death at 7:15 o'clock last night, in a six-foot square tool house on the ground floor of the building. He had a small charcoal stove in the house to keep him warm, and the firemen said that he was probably overcome by the fumes of the charcoal. The stove became overheated and then set fire to the house.

Firemen put out the flames without much trouble. They were going home when one of the men looked into the shanty and found the watchman lying on the floor near the stove, burned almost to a crisp.

Nine Hurt in Collision.

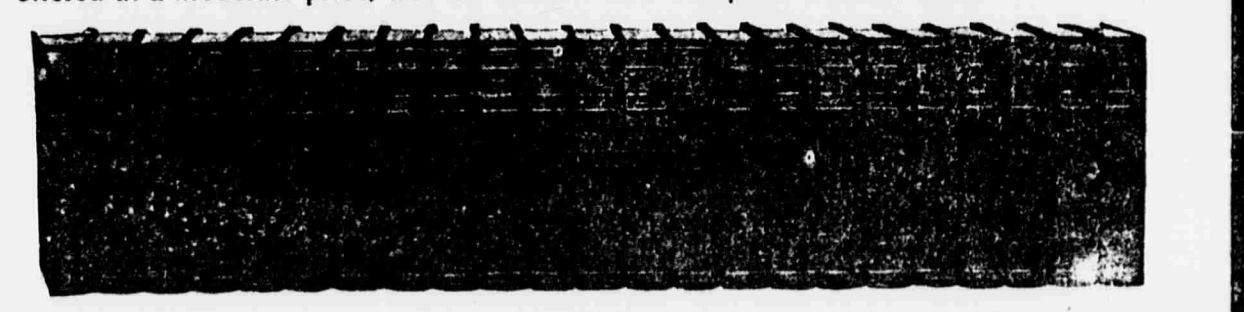
MIDDLETOWN, N. Y., Dec. 13.—In a head-on collision today on the Susquehanna and Western Railroad at Franklin Furnace express train 4, consisting of an engine and three coaches, smashed into a light engine. Nine persons were injured, one seriously, and all on the train were severely shaken up and bruised. Train 4 was running late on account of the snowstorm, and the light engine was sent from Two Bridges to help it. Lewis Keyes of Stroudsburg, engineer of the light engine, was injured about the hips and internally. He is in a critical condition.

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